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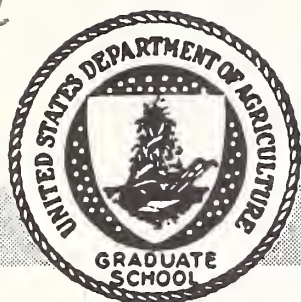
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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

March 22, 1952 *in 1951*

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

A newsletter

we would like much to be able to read is one published by a farm credit cooperative in India. Our information on it comes from Claude Wickard (REA), who recently visited the cooperative on a trip that took him around the world. Mr. Wickard reports that the co-op began with lessons in reading and writing for members and patrons. They learned rapidly and could read and write within two months. But how were they to keep in practice? That was the rub. To answer that practical question, the co-op has started a newsletter. It reports co-op activities and news of the members in simple, direct terms. This gives the beginners a chance to use their new skill in reading. They are also encouraged to send in suggestions and complaints and at the same time improve their newly acquired writing ability. That is only part of the good work done by this cooperative. Advisor is Horace Holmes (OFAR) former county agent from Tennessee.

The tutorial system

requires more time of both student and teacher than either in general can spare in an education program such as ours. However, our Department of Public Administration has devised a plan that approaches the tutorial system, permits a younger man in government to obtain guidance under an experienced official, and to earn graduate credit for the work. The student who enrolls in the course "Reading and Papers in Public Administration," does supervised reading under an appropriate senior administrative official. The two hold monthly conferences on specified topics of administration or the student may carry on individual research, discuss his findings and their implications during a long lunch hour with mentor. The readings and the problem to be investigated are determined in consultation with the advisor. John Thurston (Secretary's Office) rides herd on the plan.

Japanese leaders

in political science and public administration visited GS in February. In the group were Mr. Royama, president of their Society of Public Administration; Mr. Kaneko, National Personnel Authority; T. Adachi, Kansai University; K. Hashimoto, Chuo University; M. Nagahama, Kyoto University; Tadashi Yoshimura, Waseda University; Tatsui Takenaka, Kobe University; and Sadae Hamada, the interpreter. Dr. Eisele explained the operation of GS and how committees of experts explore needs of employees and plan course programs. The visitors told him one of their problems is to find a reservoir of educated people to further adult education programs of this type.

Electronically speaking,

we note the familiar blue postal money order will soon give way to a prepunched tabulating card. The Post Office Department announces the change-over about July 1 will permit installation of a system that uses the latest electrical and sorting machine and gives the public better service at less cost.

Film 'N File, Inc., has announced a new micro-film reading machine designed especially for use with strips of micro-film housed within "3 x 5" cards. IBM, Remington Rand, E. Z. Sort or McBee Keysort cards are all adaptable to the machine. A "3x5" card provides space in clear acetate channels for up to 3 strips of 16 mm film, which may record 50 to 70 pages. Strips of microfilm placed in these cards is a convenient method for handling live records.

A photronic typewriter that serves as a composing machine and permits use of a wide variety of type faces and point sizes from the characters stored on a strip of film is under development in a New York laboratory. An onset printing installation is already in operation in Dayton, Ohio. Onset combines the advantages of photostatic reproduction with the economies of the printing press. Existing copy can be reproduced by means of reflected light as a single copy or as an edition of any size.

These recent advances in electronics indicate why there is a growing interest in GS courses No. 318 and 319, "Application of Tabulating Equipment." Milton Kaufman (Census) who teaches these courses credits the enrollment to a general trend toward mechanization in offices. These are the only courses in wiring tabulating equipment offered by public institutions in the Washington area. Eighty-six students are enrolled in these courses this semester.

Foresters learn about administration

in a special school each winter at Montana State University arranged by officials of the University and FS Region I. At the fifth of these, January 30 - February 24, the courses included psychology, principles of administration, public speaking, public relations, writing, and economics of conservation. The courses were taught by faculty members who had familiarized themselves with their forester-students problems on a field trip to visit them last summer. Students may earn undergraduate or graduate credit. Enrollment is limited to 50.

The Society of American Foresters reports that 28 of the 34 colleges and universities now offering instruction in forestry have applied for inspection during the re-accrediting of 1951. Colleges and universities accredited for professional instruction in forestry now number 25.

"Federal Training in the National Emergency"

is the title of the Federal Personnel Council subcommittee report issued recently. It points out the need for orientation, career development programs, management improvement methods, technical apprentices, training for clerical jobs, and special training for part time and physically handicapped workers. A few copies are available at the Office of Personnel, USDA training division.

Retirement counseling

was advocated by Karl Stern, McGill University, in the lecture he gave in the GS series on aging and retirement. He says older people can be helped by counsel to make a better adjustment to retirement and a greater contribution to society, just as young people are aided by vocational guidance.

Dr. Stern bases many of his views on what can be done to aid older people on his experiences as director of an old age counseling service at McGill. These show that many apparently surface problems of emotion or finance are actually camouflages for some profound personal trouble that has extended over the whole of life. Often the problem can be straightened out with counsel.

In charting modern social trends that make adjustment to old age more difficult today than in the past, Dr. Stern pointed to the high degree of specialization in modern life. This one-sidedness is encouraged during man's active life by our industrial urban existence. Often the working unit is the only one in which a man is actually integrated. It serves as a kind of a social corset. He is helpless when it is taken away.

True, psychological training for retirement begins at birth, says Dr. Stern. We can plan for retirement by developing a wide range of interests long before we retire. The healthy adjustment to life at any age is one of many-sidedness. Recommending group activities, Dr. Stern stresses the active part. Too many of us go in for free time "passivities" in Dr. Stern's opinion.

The Fossils,

a club of retired men in Washington that numbers many GS friends in its membership offers a positive answer to Dr. Stern's suggestion. The club schedules each month a lively program of debates, excursions, luncheons, and tours. The March program, for example, got underway with a discussion led by Col. William W. Edwards (USA-ret.) on "Fighting Indians of the Old West." This month's schedule included among other things a visit to Goodwill Industries and a debate on Federal pensions for all.

Fitting older people

into active participation in normal family, social, and community activities is one of the concerns of an inter-departmental Committee on Aging and Geriatrics recently established by FSA to follow-up the national conference in September 1950. Clark Tibbitts of Public Health Service is chairman. Along with two others, Carl Taylor and I represent USDA on the Committee. We will explore -- with all appropriate groups -- problems arising from an increasing proportion of older persons in our population. One of the objectives is to develop methods for integrating older persons into the total mobilization effort.

Our educational bookkeeping

system records the arduous hours, the credits, and the months in residence -- the result being an equation in which education becomes the unknown factor. We must learn how to measure education as well as schooling. - Alonzo G. Grace, in the convocation address at the University of Chicago, September 1950.

was how Congressman Clifford R. Hope, Kansas, described Title II of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 in the closing talk of this year's lectures on marketing. Tracing the history of the Act through committee hearings and passage, Congressman Hope stressed the need to bring marketing research, the closely related marketing services, and regulatory activities of USDA into an integrated, administrative unit. This type of administration, he says, would help marketing attain the status of production. Copies of Congressman Hope's speech may be obtained from H. C. Trelogan, ARA, chairman of the committee that planned the marketing lectures.

"Farmers Train as Orators" in the January issue of EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW? Although I'm late in mentioning it, I was impressed by this story of how New York State farmers -- weary of being out-talked -- organized a class in public speaking. The report of just how they did it was written by Ol Cleon Barner, Broome county agent, who had a hand in the success of the affair.

Henry Stevens, head of BAIC's allergen research division, and his associates -- E. J. Coulson and J. R. Spies -- have been chosen as joint recipients of the Hillebrand Price of the American Chemical Society. They were awarded the prize for research which proved that cottonseed oil in food products does not cause allergies. Dr. Stevens organized the allergen research division in 1926 and from the start has worked with his co-winners as a research team.

Harold Stone was guest of honor at a dinner given by USDA associates March 3. The occasion was his transfer to the Department of Defense where he will head up management improvement work for the army. Long active in GS he will continue to serve as chairman of the Department of Public Administration's division of organization and methods analysis.

"Sense of the Meeting"

is how those of us who are Quakers describe a method of tapping the resources of each individual, coalescing the best judgments, and uniting all in a sense of a cohesiveness. When Morris L. Cooke, chairman of the President's Water Resources Commission, was a guest recently at the Secretary's Staff conference, he spoke of the extensive relationships of USDA to Commission findings. Commenting on positive factors in effective administration, Mr. Cooke highly commended the use of the "Sense of the meeting" approach in reaching policy decisions.

Sincerely,


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